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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,432	03/03/2004	Thomas Plummer	IOM-P052	2431
<div>22876 7590 11/26/2007 FACTOR & LAKE, LTD 1327 W. WASHINGTON BLVD. SUITE 5G/H CHICAGO, IL 60607</div>				
			EXAMINER HELM, CARALYNNE E	
			ART UNIT 4173	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/708,432

Applicant(s)

PLUMMER ET AL.

Examiner

Caralynne Helm

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5, 8, 11-12, and 14-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1 page.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

Applicant's filing on October 15, 2007 in response to the restriction requirement is hereby acknowledged. The applicant has cancelled the claim upon which the restriction was based, thus the restriction requirement is moot. Should applicant opt to amend the claims and reenter the currently cancelled subject matter, the previous restriction requirement will likely be reinstated.

Specification

The use of the trademark TWEEN® 20A and WATER LOCK® A220 has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

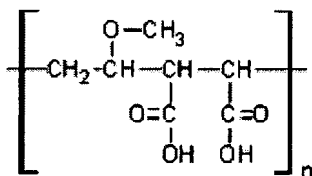
Objections

Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: this claim is substantially the same as claim 2. Appropriate correction is required.

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Claims 11-12 and 14-15 are objected to because of the following informalities: Each claim appears to contain erroneous words. Claim 11 describes delivery of a medicament to a "limiting" body. Claim 12 states that a "step of administering" may be selected from a set of medicaments. Both claims 14 and 15 describe administering a medicament "with the living subject" as though a living being (plant, bacteria, animal etc.) was being administered along with the medicament. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 5 is objected to because the polymeric chemical structure it describes is not written according to accepted practice and thus presents confusion in interpretation. In addition, the language in the claim describes an acrylate, however, the depicted structure is not an acrylate molecule but instead is a poly(methylvinyl ether maleic acid) copolymer. Clarification of the structure would include the depiction of the monomer subunits such that they can be readily identified, such as shown below:



Claims 8 and 15 are objected to because of the following: Each claim contains trademark. The use of the trademark Tween® 20A and WATER LOCK® A220 has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 5, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP § 2173.05(c). Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949). In the present instance, claims 1, 5, and 11 recite the broad recitation "pH...approximately 4.1 to approximately 4.9", and the claims also recites "preferably pH 4.5" which is the narrower statement of the limitation.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the

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invention. The claim discloses a generalized structure of a polymeric buffer with 'n' subunits. Neither the claim itself nor the specification define the range of values over which 'n' can vary.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The term "high" in claim 10 is a relative term, which renders the claim indefinite. The term "high" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. There is no discussion of a quantity of buffer capacity, therefore it is impossible to gauge at which point a "high" buffer capacity occurs. As a relative term, "high" requires some reference point in order to be appropriately descriptive.

Claims 2-3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each of the claims states that the selection of a medicament is optional (e.g. "...may be selected") and therefore does not particularly point out the subject matter claimed, as an embodiment exists, according to the claim, where no medicament is selected to employ in the invention.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 15 recites the limitation "rehydrating agents" in a method of administration. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim since the preceding reference to rehydrating agent in the claim and the claim from which claim 15 depends is singular (agent as opposed to agents).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps (US Patent No. 5,533,971).

Phipps teaches an electrotransport device where the pH of the reservoirs is optimized to reduce skin irritation both before and after electrotransport drug delivery (see column 3 lines 60-64). In addition, Phipps teaches that iontophoresis is a widely used process of electrotransport. Phipps generally teaches that these devices have one electrode that is termed a donor or active electrode while the other is the counter or return electrode, serving to close the circuit through the body (see column 1 lines 43-47; instant claim 4). The device is configured where an electrical power source is connected to the donor (active) electrode, which includes the donor reservoir with the drug to be delivered (see column 5 lines 34-39; instant claims 1 and 4). Phipps goes on to further describe the donor and counter reservoirs used in the invention. Both are taught as polymeric gel matrices that can include polymers in combination such as KLUCCEL®, a hydroxypropyl cellulose and a viscosity enhancer exemplified by the instant application, as well as hydroxyethyl cellulose (see column 17 lines 10-13 and 26, and 32-33; instant claim 1 and 7 and instant specification paragraph 17 line 14-16). WATER LOCK® is also taught in this group of suitable polymers and is also taught as a rehydrating agent in the instant specification (see column 17 lines 24-25; instant specification paragraph 17 lines 17-19).

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Polymeric buffers are taught by Phipps for use in the anodic reservoir to eliminate competition between the drug to be delivered and the counter ions that can be produced by some buffers (see column 15 lines 7-17). In particular, poly(methylvinyl ether-maleic acid), sold commercially as Gantrez S95 and S97, is given as a particularly envisioned example of such a polymeric buffer, and is also exemplified in the instant specification (see table 7; instant claim 5 specification paragraph 15). Instant claim 5 discloses the chemical structure of poly(methylvinyl ether-maleic acid) specifically. As the anodic reservoir is taught to be maintained at pH 4 or greater, its exemplified buffers are capable of performing this function (see column 15 lines 59-65). Phipps goes on to discuss the classifications of drugs (medicaments) that can be delivered by the invention (see column 18 line 43-column 19 line 45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to practice the invention of Phipps where the polymeric gel matrix includes a buffering agent (maintaining the pH above pH 4), viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and medicament with an active electrode assembly configured for iontophoretic delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body. In addition it also would have been obvious to also have a power source and a counter electrode that completes the circuit between the active electrode and power source through the body. Therefore, claims 1, 4-5 and 7 are obvious over Phipps.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps in view of the lidocaine record in the Merck Index.

Phipps teaches a device configured for iontophoretic delivery that includes polymeric gel matrix reservoir, a buffering agent (maintaining the pH above pH 4), viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and medicament with an active electrode assembly configured for delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body. Phipps also teaches the incorporation of several

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classes of drugs (medicaments) that includes anesthetic (see column 18 lines 43-45 and 53-54) In a particular example, Phipps teaches the delivery of the anesthetic lidocaine HCl, a derivative of lidocaine commonly used in the art (see Phipps-example 7 and Lidocaine - Merck Index). As the HCl derivative of lidocaine is commonly used for lidocaine in the pharmaceutical art, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use lidocaine as the medicament in the invention of Phipps. Thus, claims 1-3 are obvious over Phipps in view of the lidocaine record in the Merck Index.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps in view of Parkinson et al. (PGPub No.US2003/0023228).

Phipps teaches a device configured for iontophoretic delivery that includes polymeric gel matrix reservoir, a buffering agent (maintaining the pH above pH 4), viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and medicament with an active electrode assembly configured for delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body. Phipps also teaches the incorporation of several classes of drugs (medicaments) that includes anti-inflammatory compounds (see column 18 lines 43-45 and 56) Phipps does not teach the particular type of anti-inflammatory compound to use in the invention. Parkinson et al. teach an iontophoretic device for delivery of anti-inflammatory steroids that includes water-soluble forms of dexamethsone in particular (see paragraph 4 lines 1-21, paragraph 16 and paragraph 17). It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use dexamethasone in the polymeric gel reservoir matrix in the invention of Phipps. Thus claims 1-3 are obvious over Phipps in view of Parkinson et al.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps in view of Hsu et al. (PGPub No. US 2003/0161870).

Phipps teaches a device configured for iontophoretic delivery that includes polymeric gel matrix reservoir, a buffering agent (maintaining the pH above pH 4), viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and medicament with an active electrode assembly configured for delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body. Phipps also teaches the incorporation of additional ingredients in the reservoir matrix such as permeability enhancers, but does not teach particular examples of chemicals that could serve in this role. Hsu et al. teach that a variety of compounds are used in the art of drug delivery to enhance skin permeability that includes TWEEN® 20 (see paragraph 5 lines 1-3 and 11). It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use TWEEN® 20 as a permeability enhancer in the polymeric gel matrix in the invention of Phipps. Thus claims 1 and 8 are obvious over Phipps in view of Hsu et al.

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps in view of Parkinson et al.

Phipps teaches a device configured for iontophoretic delivery that includes polymeric gel matrix reservoir, a buffering agent (maintaining the pH above pH 4), viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and medicament with an active electrode assembly configured for delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body. Phipps does not teach the particular type of active electrode assembly to employ for the donor electrode. Parkinson et al. teach that in an iontophoretic device the active electrode assemblies can be open faced as well as high-density electrodes (see paragraph 16 and paragraph 37 lines 11-13) It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use open faced or high-density electrodes as the

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active electrode assembly used with the polymeric gel reservoir matrix in the invention of Phipps. Thus claims 1 and 9 are obvious over Phipps in view of Parkinson et al.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps.

Phipps teaches a device configured for iontophoretic delivery that includes a polymeric gel matrix reservoir, a buffering agent (maintaining the pH above pH 4 for the anode), viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and medicament with an active electrode assembly configured for delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body. In a particular embodiment, Phipps teaches a reservoir gel with polyvinyl alcohol (polymer gel matrix) and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (viscosity enhancer and rehydrating agent) (see column 26 lines 54-58). The phrase "attaining high buffer capacity" in the claim is interpreted as an intended use since it is indefinite (see ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*** above). A second example teaches a polyvinyl alcohol based hydrogel that contains lidocaine HCl (medicament) and is used to deliver the drug to a living patient through the skin; here, the potassium concentration is monitored as an indicia of skin irritation and to indicate the need to reposition the device (see example 7). In addition, Phipps et al. teaches the appropriate buffering compounds to use to achieve the desired anodic pH of 4 or above (see table 11 and column 25 lines 8-10); thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine these elements of Phipps to iontophoretically deliver a medicament, in this case lidocaine HCl, to a patient (living subject) with minimal skin irritation. Therefore claim 10 is obvious over Phipps.

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Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps in view of the Table of pKa and PI values for amino acids

(<http://www.mhhe.com/physsci/chemistry/carey5e/Ch27/ch27-1-4-2.html>).

Claim 11 is being interpreted as a means plus function claim, thus invoking 35 U.S.C 112, sixth paragraph treatment as discussed in MPEP 2181. The written description of paragraph 15 in the instant specification is sufficient to fulfill the requirement and sets forth that poly(methylvinyl ether-maleic acid) is the "means for maintaining pH above 4.0" and glycine is the "means for deviating a pH in the range from approximately 4.1 to approximately 4.9...). Phipps has been shown to make obvious the limitations of claim 10 (see ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*** of claim 10 above). Instant claim 11 further limits the particular buffering system used in claim 10. Phipps also teaches the utility of poly(methylvinyl ether-maleic acid) as a suitable acidic buffer. In addition, Phipps teaches the utility of a combination of acid and base as an appropriate buffering system for the anodic reservoir, also taught to be maintained at pH 4 (see column 14 lines 25-27). The exemplified basic compounds included amino acids. The teachings of Phipps do not explicitly describe the combination of acidic polymeric buffer and a basic amino acid; however, the range over which poly(methylvinyl ether-maleic acid) buffers is nearly the same as that of the acids exemplified. In addition, Phipps teaches that the use of a polymeric buffer in the electrotransport system reduces the competition between the buffer ions/counterions and the medicament (column 15 lines 15-17). It therefore would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine poly(methylvinyl ether-maleic acid) with a basic amino acid. Glycine is not specifically taught by Phipps as a basic amino acid suitable for use in the invention, however the pKa of its ammonium ion is near that of histidine (see Table of pKa and PI values for amino acids), which is included in the list taught by Phipps. Since the pKa of a compound controls its ability to buffer,

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the closeness of glycine's value (9.6) to histidine's value (9.17) makes them equivalents for the purposes of the invention of Phipps. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have therefore found it obvious to use glycine with the poly(methylvinyl ether-maleic acid) to create a buffering system in the invention of Phipps that has a means for maintaining pH above 4.0 and a means for deviating a pH in the range from approximately 4.1 to approximately 4.9. Thus claims 10-11 are obvious over Phipps in view of the Table of pKa and PI values for amino acids.

Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps in view of the lidocaine record in the Merck Index.

As previously discussed, lidocaine HCl is an obvious derivative of lidocaine that is commonly known and used in the pharmaceutical art, as well as exemplified by Phipps (see ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*** of claims 1-3 above). In the rejection of claim 10 above, Phipps teaches the use of a device configured for iontophoretic delivery that includes polymeric gel matrix reservoir, a buffering agent, viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and lidocaine HCl configured for delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body (see ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*** of claim 10 above). Since, lidocaine HCl is a commonly known derivative of lidocaine, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to deliver lidocaine, as opposed to lidocaine HCl with the invention of Phipps. Thus, claims 10 and 12 are obvious over Phipps in view of the lidocaine record in the Merck Index.

Claims 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps.

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Phipps teaches a device configured for iontophoretic delivery that includes polymeric gel matrix reservoir, a buffering agent (maintaining the pH above pH 4 for the anode), viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and medicament with an active electrode assembly configured for delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body. In a particular embodiment, Phipps teaches a reservoir gel with polyvinyl alcohol (polymer gel matrix) and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (viscosity enhancer and rehydrating agent) (see column 26 lines 54-58). A second example teaches a polyvinyl alcohol based hydrogel that contains lidocaine HCl (medicament) and is used to deliver the drug to a living patient through the skin (see example 7). In addition, Phipps et al. teaches the appropriate buffer combination to use to achieve the desired anodic pH of 4 or above (see table 11 and column 25 lines 8-10) In particular, Phipps teaches the combination of acidic and basic buffers from table 5 and table 6 (see column 14 lines 25-27). Within this set are combinations that include an amino acid with another buffer; thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine these elements of Phipps to iontophoretically deliver a medicament to a patient (living subject) where the reservoir is buffered with a combination of an amino acid with a second buffer and inducing minimal skin irritation. Therefore claim 10 is obvious over Phipps.

Claims 10 and 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps.

Phipps teaches a device configured for iontophoretic delivery that includes a polymeric gel reservoir made of a buffering agent (maintaining the pH above pH 4 for the anode), viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and medicament configured for delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body. In a particular embodiment, Phipps teaches a hydroxyethyl cellulose

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(viscosity enhancer and rehydrating agent) and buffering compounds (see column 20 lines 6-11). A second example teaches a polyvinyl alcohol based hydrogel that contains lidocaine HCl (medicament) and is used to deliver the drug to a living patient through the skin, where the level of induced skin irritation is monitored as a function of potassium concentration to indicate the need to reposition the device (see example 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to exchange the cellulose based reservoir for the polyvinyl alcohol based gel, as both are described as suitable for the invention, to iontophoretically deliver a medicament to a patient (living subject) with minimal skin irritation. Therefore claims 10 and 14 are obvious over Phipps.

Claim 10 and 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phipps in view of (see Grain Processing Corporation WATER LOCK Superabsorbent Polymers).

Phipps teaches a device configured for iontophoretic delivery that includes polymeric gel matrix reservoir, a buffering agent (maintaining the pH above pH 4 for the anode), viscosity enhancer, rehydrating agent and medicament with an active electrode assembly configured for delivery of the medicament to a living subject's body. In a particular embodiment, Phipps teaches a polyvinyl alcohol (polymer gel matrix) with hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (viscosity enhancer and rehydrating agent) (see column 26 lines 54-58). Phipps also teaches other polymers such as KLUCEL® and WATER LOCK®, that are useful both individually and in combination, as components in the electrode reservoirs (see column 17 lines 10-13 and 26, and 32-33; instant specification paragraph 17 line 14-16). Phipps does not teach a particular variety of WATER LOCK®, but instead implies that any would be suitable. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ WATER LOCK® A220, as a finite number of variants are available and all serve the purpose of

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absorbing water (see Grain Processing Corporation WATER LOCK® Superabsorbent Polymers). Therefore claims 10 and 15 are obvious over Phipps in view of (see Grain Processing Corporation WATER LOCK® Superabsorbent Polymers).

Conclusion

No claim is allowed.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Caralynne Helm whose telephone number is 571-270-3506. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8-4 (EDT).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on 571-272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Caralynne Helm
Examiner
Art Unit 4173

CH


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